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Warrior News

<http://www.usarc.army.mil/95thdiv/2bde/3-378th/newsletter.html>



3rd/378th

Upcoming Drill Dates

October

- 16 - 0700 First Formation
Uniform: IPFU
Lunch - Postal Facility
- 17 - 0700 - First Formation
Uniform: BDU
Lunch - Golden Corral

November 13-14

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2ND Brigade, 95TH Division
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Norman, OK 73069-4301



Commanders Corner



In this month's newsletter I want to address two major topics:

RECRUITING: As all of you are aware, cross-leveling has hit our unit hard. We currently have 14 of our soldiers mobilized. This has significantly impacted our unit strength. They have changed the role of SFC Brown, our facility recruiter, to retention. This will pose an additional challenge. I am asking that each member of this battalion make recruiting a priority. I have talked with Mr. Jim Alexander, the Recruiting Station Commander for Norman, and he has pledged to assist in any way he can. I am tasking each company to conduct three recruiting events monthly. These will be briefed to me during our training meeting. I also am requiring that each company turn in a minimum of three referrals monthly. These will be turned over to Mr. Alexander for action. Any soldier that turns in a soldier who joins our unit will receive a \$200.00 savings bond from Mr. Alexander. Any soldier that turns in three referrals that join the unit will receive an Army Achievement Medal from me. There also is money available to put soldiers in for two week ADSW tours to recruit the Norman area. Soldiers that are interested need to go through their company chain of command to CSM Wagner during the October drill. We will turn these names over to Mr. Alexander.

ANNUAL TRAINING: I want to thank all of you who took part in our AT mission at Fort Sill for an outstanding job. LTC Tippet in the AAR was very complementary of our performance.
HEADS UP: Our 05 Annual Training Mission will begin in March. More details will be provided during drill.

***OCTOBER DRILL IS MANDATORY FOR ALL SOLDIERS, THERE WILL BE NO RST'S. ALSO, NOVEMBER'S DRILL IS MANDATORY FOR ALL DRILL SERGEANTS. ***

LTC Crabtree



Sergeant Major's Spot



CSM Thoughts

How "reachable" are you? Is your contact phone number correct and current? How about your mailing address? Is your AKO account current and can you sign into it and use it? We'll find out this drill weekend because we have to complete a processing task by way of our AKO account.

Is your DEERS information correct and is it current? After all, this affects your family, if you have dependents. If you have changes, bring the appropriate documentation to back it up and make your data current. Do this for your dependents' sake. Be ready to do this on Saturday morning at drill.

Are your family, school, and business affairs in order? If not, what do you need to make them be in order? Why is all of this important, anyway? The times we live in require it.

The CG (BG Archer) advised us that, as you read this, approximately 11% of the 95th Division is either mobilized or on alert to be mobilized. 95th Division soldiers have earned the Purple Heart, Silver Star, and Bronze Star medal. We are *engaged* in the War on Terror.

Common sense tells us to expect more and more 3/378th soldiers to be mobilized in the coming months. It appears that we are not going as a unit; rather, we will mobilize as *individual soldiers*.

When mobilized, no soldier has all the time in the world to get ready. Now is the time to be getting ready. What have you done to be "ready if" that call comes?

This drill weekend features two major readiness events for any soldier. Drill attendance is mandatory and **NO RST** will be granted without the Commander's direct involvement and guidance. No exception.

See you at drill! Think *safety* and be careful anytime you travel. Never forget that you are our unit's most valuable asset.

CSM Rick Wagner

21," and it allows retailers to scan your check through a machine that deducts the cash within minutes. It's essentially the end of the paper check system, as well, because the check will eventually be destroyed. There will be an image of the check online and that will serve as proof if you need it. But everything is becoming electronic, and a bank will know if a check is good right away. So, be prepared to move to an electronic bill pay system. It's the smart way to go. What about checks that you deposit? Well, the float is no longer available to you, the customer. But the bank still will hold a deposit for a few days to make sure it clears.

Ask for a recredit in writing: If something goes wrong with your checking account, make a written request that your bank "recredit" (return) the funds to your account. You have a right to recredit in some cases, and not in others. Because it is hard to tell when the right of recredit applies, you should ask, in writing, for a recredit whenever a check is paid twice, a check is paid for the wrong amount, or something else goes wrong with your checking account.

Ask for a substitute check: You get a limited recredit right under Check 21, but the regulations restrict recredit to consumers who were provided with a substitute check. Always ask for a substitute check, which is a special kind of copy of your paper check. If you now get your original checks back, ask for an account that returns substitute checks every month. If your bank charges too much for an account that returns substitute checks every month, look for another bank.

Expect the checks you write to clear faster: Don't write a check unless the funds are already in your account. The checks you write will clear faster, but banks aren't required to speed up the time when they make funds available from the checks that you deposit.

Don't sign up now for voluntary check truncation: You have even fewer consumer rights under voluntary non-return of your checks than you'll have under Check 21. Decline invitations from your bank to convert to voluntary check truncation.

Check Floating a Thing of the Past

"Check 21" starting October 28
www.consumersunion.org

You've probably bought something in a store with a check even though you don't have the money in your account at the time. You figure you have a few days for the check to clear, and by then the money will be there. It's called the "float." Well, the float is slowly becoming a thing of the past. Because of a new law going into effect in October, money will be drafted from your account immediately when you write a check. It's called "Check

Birthdays - October

Happy Birthday to the members of the 378th and their families.

- Kimberly Nagle – October 1
- Sasha Williams – October 2
- Debbie Denham – October 4
- Sydney Schall – October 12
- SFC Leonard Gouge – October 17
- Jalen Williams – October 22
- Jay Denham – October 25
- John Holten Jr. – October 25

myPay Enhancements

myPay, the online pay account information system of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) inaugurates new enhancements and upgrades for all users. All myPay users:

- can assign a "restricted access PIN" to a designated individual to view the information, but cannot make any changes to the allotments or account information
- can add a personal email address, so users are notified of pay changes and other items of interest

All active duty Army, Navy and Air Force members:

- can view 12 months of Leave and Earning Statements are able to start, stop and change financial allotments and savings bonds

myPay is a web-based system that allows customers to access and control their pay account information. Receipt of electronic LES and other financial information eliminates the risks associated with postal delivery. myPay provides members up-to-date information on pertinent changes by delivering notices to users' email addresses. Today, myPay has nearly three million users with customized PINs and serves all military members, military retirees and annuitants, Department of Defense civilian employees and Department of Energy employees.

3.5% Pay Raise for Servicemembers

The Defense Appropriations Bill signed into law last month will fund the global war on terror, personnel initiatives and further the transformation of the American military. The \$417 billion bill funds the military for fiscal 2005. Congress must pass a second bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, before the department can spend the money. Concerning personnel, the bill provides a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for servicemembers, eliminates out-of-pocket housing expenses and fully funds the Defense Health Program. The president said the raise brings the total pay raise over the last four years to nearly 21%.

GI Bill Payment Rate Increase

Starting 1 October 2004, full-time students with GI Bill benefits can get over \$1000 per month to cover the cost of their education. This increase could mean you have as much as \$36,000 to pay for your education. GI Bill payments may be used for College, Business, Technical or Vocational Courses, Distance Learning, Certification Test, Flight Training and more.

Welcome Warriors

Let's give a big Hooah welcome to the newest members of the 3/378th!

!!Welcome Warriors!!

- CDT Jennifer Patterson, B Co

!!Welcome Baby Warrior!!

The SSG Maxwell family had their baby September 20 at approximately 1715hrs. Girl, Audrey Amar Maxwell, 6lbs 6oz 18 inches long.

AGR Recruiter Program Expanding

ST. LOUIS -- The Army Reserve is seeking 400 enlisted Soldiers to take active-duty tours to fill new recruiter positions located across the country.

Soldiers already in the Active Guard Reserve, or AGR, program will be detailed into recruiter positions for three years. These Soldiers will retain their original military occupational specialty for future assignments, officials said. They said Soldiers who are newly hired into the AGR recruiter program will hold the recruiter designation as their primary specialty.

Those who are accepted into the AGR Recruiter program will attend the seven-week Army Recruiter Course at Fort Jackson, S.C.

"We are looking for those Soldiers who want to volunteer to take on the challenging mission of those in recruiting," said Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Fierro, recruiting program noncommissioned officer, with the Army Reserve Active Duty

Management Directorate at U.S. Army Human Resources Command – St. Louis. "We work hard to place our volunteers where they want to be."

Fierro served as an AGR detailed recruiter from 1997 to 2000. "I loved it," he said of recruiting. "If you really think about it, how many jobs can you hold where you can go out knowing that you are changing someone's entire life?"

"As a recruiter, you have a direct influence on someone's perspective, future and ambition," Fierro explained. "It is the greatest feeling when you work with someone and put them into the military because you know how far they can go."

Fierro said one of his greatest memories from recruiting was an invitation he received to put sergeant's stripes on the second person he had brought into the military.

Beyond the intangible benefits, which come with the job, he points out that there are many other benefits to becoming an AGR recruiter. They include:

- Promotion potential – AGR recruiter positions are designed for sergeants first class. This gives those who succeed the opportunity to be promoted to this level, officials said.

- Special Duty Assignment Pay - \$450 is paid monthly to AGR recruiters.

Fierro recognized that the hours can be long and the work can be demanding, but being a recruiter is a great place for someone who has served in the field and is now placed in a unique position to help, guide and mentor others.

"People who have been in theater and know the good stories and the whole truth about the great things our military does can be very effective recruiters," Fierro said. "They can share what they've learned with new recruits. A good recruiter helps someone realize their potential and what they can achieve in the military," he said.

Annual Family Picnic



**Goodbye to SSG Williams,
Thanks for the 20+ years!**



**Goodbye to SFC Logan,
He got so old they made him retire!**



**SFC Leckie takes a pie in the
face from a 5 year old!**



**Watermelon eating contest.
And the winner is Elmo May for HQ!**



**CSM Wagner carefully carries his egg
in the spoon!**



Tag Team!



**DS Raney carries his team-mate
in the 3 legged race!**



Tug of War